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to put them to the shift of inventing fictitious names for their churches. Fynnon Gybi, Eisteddva Gybi, in Anglesey, and the ancient tradition and proverb, to this day, in that island, about ‘*Seiriol wyn a Chybi velyn*,’ are also evidences of the strongest kind; so we are as sure there was once such a man as Cybi, as that Dewi, Teilo, Padarn, Curig, Padrig, &c. were once founders or patrons of those churches, which bear their names*.

“ When men of as great learning as Camden and Baxter can advance such incoherent stuff, is it a wonder that every smatterer in history thinks himself equal to them, and even that witticisms and puns take place of solid knowledge, and that etymology has so little credit? As for my part, I am very cautious, how I meddle with these things, and can say nothing positive; and I abominate a fanciful derivation of an ancient name.”

WELSH DICTIONARIES †.

“ Though the Welsh is my native, or mother, tongue, and that I was brought up in Anglesey, where it is spoken in great perfection, and admired by the natives, and where Welsh poetry and antiquities are much in vogue, yet I learn something daily in reading the ancient poets, after an acquaintance with them for near fifty years. This is chiefly owing to our want of good dictionaries. Dr. Davies’s Dictionary, the very best we have, was a hasty work, and doth not contain above half the body of our language, which consideration hath set me, these forty years past, to make such additions to it, for my own benefit, as I could pick up in my reading. Mr. Edward Llwyd, in his *Arch. Brit.*, has done a little that way; but all the rest of our dictionaries are mere trash. T. Richards, whom you mention in one of your letters to Dr. Phillips, was not equal to the task; he has taken in even the faults of Dr. Davies, and has added many of his own, and of his correspondents, whose names he has foolishly entered among his venerable ancient authors, as if Quarles and Cibber had been hoarded up with Horace and Virgil. Richards was laborious, but very ignorant and heavy. Dr. Davies was a man of deep learning in

* See vol. ii. of the CAMBRO-BRITON, pp. 323-4.—ED.

† Camb. Reg. vol. i. p. 370.

languages, a tolerable Welsh poet, and a great master of our language, as appears from notes in his hand-writing in my possession; but he was thoroughly ignorant of natural philosophy, and I will venture to say, that he knew no animals except his own cattle and fowls. He translated the names of his animals, vegetables, and fossils, from bad dictionaries in the infancy of natural philosophy; therefore he is hardly to be relied upon in an article on that head, and his book is like a child born in the sixth month. Mr. Edward Llwyd was inferior to no man in Britain in natural history, and had a prodigious knack in languages. His knowledge in Welsh poetry was none at all; for I have by me some attempts of his that way, which shew he was not born a poet any more than Cicero. This hindered him from making any additions out of the poets; for he had but a poor taste of their excellencies, or of the force of the proofs from them peculiarly; but his *Archaeologia Britannica* is a valuable treasure of the Celtic language, and would have been more so, if he had not had so many irons in the fire. His additions to Dr. Davies's Dictionary, which T. Richards has swallowed by wholesale, are by no means authentic; for it is plain to me, the authors, Pryse, Salisbury, Vaughan, &c. had not put their last hand to that paper. Richards's Additions, from Dr. Wotton, are really Moses Williams's, who was the Doctor's assistant, and they are in want of sufficient weight. I shall say nothing of his other additions, picked up amongst his correspondents; they are too recent and weak. So much for dictionaries.*

PABO POST PRYDAIN †.

“ Our British historians and poets redound with the praises of one Pabo Post Prydain (*i. e.* Pabo the Pillar of Britain), who lived about the time the Saxons came into Britain, or soon after. Dynawd Vyr, the son of Pabo Post Prydain, is

* Since the time when this account was written by Mr. Lewis Morris, (1761), several dictionaries of the Welsh language have been published, the principal of which are Walters's English Welsh Dictionary, and the Welsh English one of Mr. Owen Pughe, both of them of great merit, and the latter peculiarly valuable for its extensive addition of words, as well as for its analytical and etymological view of our language.—Ed.

† Camb. Reg. vol. ii. p. 486.